

ABSTRACT

A method of identifying workstations that performed work on a workpiece
5 in a work line having a plurality of zones, wherein each zone includes
workstations that perform the same type of operation. In accordance with the
method, the workpiece is moved to and from workstations by a plurality of
autoloaders. After the workpiece is worked on in a particular workstation, an
autoloader moves the workpiece to a drop-off station where the workpiece is
10 marked with a mark indicating that the workstation worked on the workpiece.
When the workpiece is finished, the workpiece has a plurality of marks disposed
in different locations of the workpiece. For each of the marks, the location of the
mark in combination with the nature of the mark comprises a code that identifies
a particular one of the workstations that worked on the workpiece.

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